

REMARKS

In the Quayle Action, claims 48 and 69-97 were pending. Claims 48 and 69-97 have been allowed, and prosecution of claims 48 and 69-97 on the merits is closed. Claim 48 is indicated as containing an informality. In this response, claims 48, 71, and 80-83 have been cancelled. The cancelled claims have been renumbered and added as new claims 98-103, without introducing any new matter. No claims have been amended.

Applicants thank Examiner Kindred for the courtesy of a telephone call on March 19, 2007, in which the Quayle Action was discussed. Examiner Kindred explained that claim 48 was improper because it referenced subsequent claims. The claim would be proper if rewritten in descending order, such that the claim referenced preceding claims. As discussed below, the applicants have so amended the claims without introducing any new matter.

The Examiner indicated that claim 48 improperly contains the claim language "the method of one of claims 69-75" In this response, Applicants have cancelled claim 48, as well as claims 71 and 80-83 which depend from claim 48. Applicants have added claims 98-103. New claims 98-103 merely renumber the cancelled claims so that dependencies are expressed in the proper order, as discussed in the telephone call of March 19, 2007. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments, as such amendments are merely directed to matters of form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the informality noted by the Examiner has been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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